

Appl. No.: 09/868,549
Response dated February 27, 2004
Reply to Office action of December 3, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (cancelled)

10. (previously presented) A surfactant composition comprising:
(a) from about 75 to 97% by weight of a fatty alcohol sulfate; and
(b) from about 3 to 25% by weight of an olefin sulfonate, all weights being based on the total weight of the composition, and wherein the composition is in granular form.
11. (previously presented) The composition of claim 10 wherein the fatty alcohol sulfate is present in the composition in an amount of from about 85 to 95% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.
12. (previously presented) The composition of claim 10 wherein the olefin sulfonate is present in the composition in an amount of from about 5 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.
13. (previously presented) The composition of claim 10 wherein the fatty alcohol sulfate corresponds to formula I:
- $$R^1O-SO_3X \quad (I)$$
- wherein R^1 is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon radical containing from about 6 to 18 carbon atoms, and X is an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal, ammonium, alkyl ammonium, alkanolammonium or glucammonium.

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14. (previously presented) The composition of claim 10 wherein the olefin sulfonate is derived by:

(a) addition of SO_3 onto an olefin corresponding to formula II:



wherein R^2 and R^3 , independently of one another, represent H or alkyl groups containing from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, with the proviso that R^2 and R^3 together contain at least 6 carbon atoms;

(b) hydrolysis; and
(c) neutralization.

15. (previously presented) The composition of claim 10 wherein the olefin sulfonate comprises:

(a) ca. 60% by weight of alkane sulfonate; and
(b) ca. 40% by weight of hydroxyalkane sulfonate of which 80 to 85% by weight are monosulfonate and 15 to 20% by weight are disulfonate.

16. (previously presented) A process for making surfactant granules comprising:

(a) providing an aqueous paste containing a fatty alcohol sulfate;
(b) providing an olefin sulfonate; and
(c) simultaneously drying and granulating the fatty alcohol sulfate and olefin sulfonate.

17. (previously presented) The process of claim 16 wherein the fatty alcohol sulfate corresponds to formula I:



wherein R^1 is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon radical containing from about 6 to 18 carbon atoms, and X is an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal,

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ammonium, alkyl ammonium, alkanolammonium or glucammonium.

18. (previously presented) The process of claim 16 wherein the olefin sulfonate is derived by:

(a) addition of SO_3 onto an olefin corresponding to formula II:



wherein R^2 and R^3 , independently of one another, represent H or alkyl groups containing from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, with the proviso that R^2 and R^3 together contain at least 6 carbon atoms;

(b) hydrolysis; and

(c) neutralization.

19. (previously presented) The process of claim 16 wherein step (c) is performed in a fluidized bed.

20. (previously presented) A cleaning composition containing the surfactant composition of claim 10.

21. (currently amended) The ~~composition~~ process of claim 18 wherein the surfactant composition is present in an amount of from about 0.1 to 30% by weight, based on the weight of the cleaning composition.

22. (cancelled)

23. (previously presented) The process of claim 20 wherein the olefin sulfonate is combined with the fatty alcohol sulfate in an amount of from about 3 to 25% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.